

Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

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O 170504Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9209

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 3775

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA: CORE GROUP MEETING SEPT. 16, 1976

REFS: (A) USUN 3736 (NOTAL); (B) USUN 3630; (C) STATE 227330 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: CORE GROUP HELD FOUR-HOUR MEETING AFTERNOON SEPT 16
AT USUN. ALL MEMBERS REPRESENTED. AFTER REVIEW OF RETURNS FROM
LOBBYING EFFORTS (SEPTTEL), CORE GROUP DEVOTED BULK OF MEETING
TO TACTICS FOR ACHIEVING DEFERMENT. CORE GROUP HEARD CANADIAN AND
NEW ZEALAND REPORTS REGARDING NORWEGIAN AND AUSTRALIAN PRELIMINARY
SOUNDINGS OF NORDICS AND "ASEANS-PLUS" ON DEFERMENT. ALTHOUGH
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OPTION OF DEFERMENT MOTION IN GENERAL COMMITTEE KEPT OPEN, UK,

JAPAN, CANADA, FRG, BELGIUM, NEW ZEALAND, AND US ALL POINTED TO RISKS OF GOING FOR DEFERMENT MOTION IN GENERAL COMMITTEE IF RESULTS OF PROCEDURAL PLENARY VOTE UNCERTAIN. COSTA RICA SAID IT WOULD GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER MAJORITY VIEW PREVAILED ON THIS POINT. THE NETHERLANDS WAS QUIET. THE ROK, NEVERTHELESS, WANTED TO KEEP THIS OPTION OPEN AND THE CORE GROUP AGREED. US SUGGESTED ANOTHER SCENARIO WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A PROPOSAL, PREFERABLY FROM GENERAL COMMITTEE CHAIR, TO EFFECT THAT COMMITTEE KEEP MATTER OF RECOMMENDATION OF INSCRIPTION OF KOREAN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OR THEIR ALLOCATION TO MAIN COMMITTEE UNDER ADVISEMENT FOR TIME BEING SO AS TO PROVIDE FURTHER TIME TO ACHIEVE A DRAFT RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO A BROAD MAJORITY. IN NOTING AN INDICATION FROM NORTH KOREA'S AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA'S AMBASSADOR THAT NORTH KOREA MIGHT NOT OPPOSE A POSTPONEMENT, THE GROUP AGREED THAT NEW ZEALAND SHOULD ASK AUSTRALIA'S AMBASSADOR TO ASK INDONESIA'S AMBASSADOR TO SUGGEST TO CHAIRMAN AMERASINGHE (SRI LANKA) OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE THAT THE LATTER MIGHT PROPOSE KEEPING THE MATTER OF THE TWO KOREAN ITEMS UNDER ADVISEMENT IN GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW ZEALAND'S REPORT ON AUSTRALIA'S SOUNDINGS OF "ASEANS PLUS" GROUP:

A) AUSTRALIA'S AMB HARRY AGREED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS OF "ASEANS-PLUS" WHICH, IN ADDITION TO AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN, INCLUDE INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, FIJI AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

B) INDONESIA'S AMB SANI HAD MET DPRK AMB KWON AND SENSED THAT IF THE DPRK WAS MADE AWARE OF A STRONG MOVE FOR DEFERMENT, THEN THE DPRK WOULD GO ALONG. SANI SAID INDONESIA WOULD SUPPORT A RECOMMENDATION FOR DEFERMENT.

C) PRC AMB IN THE HAGUE, WHEN TALKING TO AUSTRALIAN AMB THERE, DID NOT GIVE A DEFINITE "NO" TO POSTPONEMENT.

D) MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE HOPED THAT A "GENERAL CONSENSUS" FOR DEFERMENT WOULD DEVELOP BEFORE THE UNGA. MALAYSIA SAID THAT IT HAD SPOKEN TO ROK TO SUGGEST THAT IT GET GENERAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AMERASINGH "ON BOARD". (ROK DID NOT COMMENT.)
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E) THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, AND FIJI INDICATED THAT THEY COULD GET APPROVAL FROM CAPITALS FOR DEFERMENT.

F) PAPUA-NEW GUINEA AGREED TO ASK INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITAL.

G) THERE WAS A DESIRE AMONG SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES FOR FURTHER SOUNDINGS OF THE DPRK AND ITS FRIENDS REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR

DEFERMENT THIS YEAR.

H) AUSTRALIANS SENSED SOME MOMENTUM FOR DEFERMENT GATHERING. IT NOTED THAT AUSTRIA HAD APPROACHED IT IN NEW YORK ON IDEA OF DEFERMENT. AUSTRALIAN REPORTED "MANY PEOPLE" TALKING ABOUT DEFERMENT AS A GOOD IDEA. AUSTRALIANS THOUGHT THAT SOUNDINGS ON A WIDER BASIS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOLLOWING ROK FONMIN PARK'S DISCLOSURES REGARDING DEFERMENT AT SEOUL AIRPORT ON SEPT. 12.

3. CANADA'S REPORT OF NORDIC SOUNDINGS:

A) NORWAY AGREED TO CANADIAN REQUEST TO SOUND OUT OTHER NORDICS. IT HAD SPOKEN TO DENMARK, ICELAND, AND SWEDEN. NORWAY HAD NOT SOUNDED

FINLAND AS FINLAND NORMALLY ABSTAINS.

B) NORWAY, DENMARK, ICELAND AND SWEDEN ARE ALL HESITANT ABOUT THE IDEA OF DEFERMENT AND CONSIDER IT A "VERY DELICATE PLOY". THEY FEEL IT PERHAPS DANGEROUS TO INVITE CONFRONTATION AT SO EARLY A STAGE. THEY WONDER IF COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD SUPPORT FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE MIGHT FAIL TO SUPPORT FRIENDLY SIDE ON PROCEDURAL AND ETHICAL QUESTION OF DEFERMENT.

C) AMB ALGARD OF NORWAY WOULD MEET AMB HARRY OF AUSTRALIA TO COMPARE NOTES. NORDICS INCLUDING FINLAND WERE ALSO TO MEET PM SEPT 15

D) ACCORDING NORWAY'S COUNSELLOR TELLMANN, THE NORDICS FAVOR POST-PONEMENT, BUT ALL DOUBT WORKABILITY OF SCENARIO INVOLVING GENERAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION OF DEFERMENT AND LIKELY SUBSEQUENT VOTE IN PLENARY. TELLMANN SAID NONE HAD ASKED FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE UNIFIED NORDIC VOTING PATTERN.

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E) ACCORDING TELLMANN, THE NORDICS SENSED THE DPRK NO LONGER QUITE SO ADAMANT.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 170504Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9210

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 3775

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4. JAPAN REPORTED THAT IT HAD BEEN APPROACHED IN NEW YORK BY ROMANIANS WHO WERE MOST ANXIOUS TO KNOW OUR SIDE'S PLANS REGARDING DEFERMENT. JAPANESE HAD TOLD ROMANIANS FRIENDLY SIDE GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PRESS FORWARD ITS RESOLUTION. JAPAN ADDED THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S AMB IN TOKYO HAD CALLED THIS WEEK AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO INQUIRE ABOUT DEFERMENT PLANS.

5. CANADA PROCEEDED TO DEPLORE ROK FONMIN PARK'S REPORTED STATEMENTS ON DEFERMENT AT SEOUL AIRPORT. STATEMENTS COULD ONLY HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT SINCE IF OUR SIDE DECIDED NOT TO GO FOR DEFERMENT RECOMMENDATION BY GENERAL COMMITTEE, THIS COULD (BEGIN UNDERLINE) NOW RPT NOT (END UNDERLINE) BE PLAYED UP BY HOSTILE SIDE AS SIGN
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OF WEAKNESS.

6. ROK CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT FONMIN PARK "SHOCKED" WHEN HE LEARNED OF PRESS REPORTS OF HIS AIRPORT INTERVIEW. PARK HAD ASKED "DO PEOPLE THINK I AM SO CRAZY AND NAIVE AS TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?" ROK CHAIRMAN DISMISSED PRESS REPORT AS

"MISQUOTATION AND COMPLETELY SPECULATIVE". ROK CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER THE DEVELOPMENT (AMB SHERER HAS CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARA 2, REF C REGARDING STATEMENT.)

7. US THEN SUGGESTED THAT THERE COULD BE A SECOND SCENARIO WHICH COULD ACHIEVE THE BENEFITS OF POSTPONEMENT BUT WHICH COULD AVOID A PLENARY VOTE. IT SUGGESTED THAT CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COMMITTEE (AMERASINGHE, SRI LANKA) MIGHT PROPOSE THAT GENERAL COMMITTEE KEEP THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING INSCRIPTION OF THE KOREAN ITEMS OR THEIR ALLOCATION TO A MAIN COMMITTEE UNDER ADVISEMENT WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING TIME FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD ENJOY BROAD MAJORITY SUPPORT.

8. THERE WAS IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN THIS SUGGESTION. CANADA SPOKE UP IN FAVOR OF KEEPING RECOMMENDATION ON ALLOCATION OF THE KOREAN ITEMS TO A MAIN COMMITTEE UNDER ADVISEMENT. HOWEVER, THE UK, FRG, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN AND BELGIUM SPOKE UP STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF KEEPING RECOMMENDATION FOR INSCRIPTION OF ITEMS UNDER ADVISEMENT. THEY NOTED PRECEDENT FOR THIS LATTER COURSE.

9. ROK COMMENTED ON ADVANTAGES OF SCENARIO SUGGESTED BY US. ROK EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ORIGINAL SCENARIO TO GAIN RECOMMENDATION FOR DEFERMENT BY GENERAL COMMITTEE AND ENDORSEMENT OF THIS IN PLENARY SHOULD NOT BE DROPPED. IT SUGGESTED THAT A GAMBLE MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE. ROK CONTINUED THAT SEOUL HAD "EVEN CONSIDERED WHETHER POSSIBLE DEFEAT ON DEFERMENT IN PLENARY WOULD INDEED REALLY BE A CATASTROPHE." ROK SUGGESTED THAT WITH DPRK FEARING DEFEAT IN PLENARY DPRK MIGHT TRY FOR TIME TO REGAIN MOMENTUM BY GOING ALONG WITH A GENERAL COMMITTEE DECISION TO KEEP MATTER OF INSCRIPTION OF KOREAN TIEMS UNDER ADVISEMENT. ROK WARNED THAT FRIENDLY SIDE SHOULD BE ALERT TO THIS "TRAP" AND THAT IT SHOULD KEEP OPEN BOTH OPTIONS.

9. BELGIUM, CANADA, UK AND FRANCE THEN SPOKE UP TO SAY THAT THEY CONSIDERED RESULT OF A PLENARY VOTE ON DEFERMENT MUCH TOO CONFIDENTIAL

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UNCERTAIN FOR THEM TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF ORIGINAL SCENARIO. CANADA STRESSED THAT HARD VOTE-COUNT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO AVOID RISK OF DAMAGING DEFEAT AT START OF UNGA. TO GET HARD VOTE-COUNT BROAD LOBBYING WOULD BE NECESSARY WHICH IN ITSELF WOULD TEND TO COMMIT OUR SIDE TO A COURSE OF SEEKING POSTPONEMENT THROUGH GENERAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. NEW ZEALAND SHARED THIS VIEW AS DID US. COSTA RICA SAID IT WOULD SUPPORT THE MAJORITY DECISION WHICHEVER WAY IT WENT. THE NETHERLANDS WAS QUIET.

10. THE CORE GROUP AGREED TO ROK REQUEST TO KEEP BOTH SCENARIOS OPEN. NEW ZEALAND COMMENTED THAT IT SAW NO NECESSITY TO ABANDON CONSIDERATION OF THE ORIGINAL SCENARIO AT THIS TIME.

11. THE GROUP THEN PROCEEDED TO CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING SECOND SCENARIO. DECISION WAS TAKEN TO HAVE NEW ZEALAND'S AMB TEMPLETON ASK AUSTRALIA'S AMB HARRY TO APPROACH INDONESIA'S AMB SANI TO EXPLAIN SECOND SCENARIO TO SANI AND INVITE HIM TO RAISE WITH AMERASINGHE. DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING A REPETITION OF LAST YEAR'S CONFRONTATION ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. THEN SANI MIGHT SUGGEST THAT AMERASINGHE COULD TAKE ACTION TO KEEP MATTER OF KOREAN ITEMS UNDER ADVISEMENT IN GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR TIME BEING. CORE GROUP AGREED THAT HARRY SHOULD PRESENT THIS SCENARIO TO SANI AS NON-CORE GROUP IDEA.

11. CORE GROUP DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN ON MONDAY, SEPT 20 AT 4:00 PM TO HEAR FURTHER REPORTS FROM ASEANS AND NORDICS, AND CONSIDER FURTHER ACTION. IN THE MEANTIME, CORE GROUP MEMBERS WOULD REFLECT MOOD OF CONFIDENCE AND READINESS FOR CONFRONTATION SHOULD THAT DEVELOP DESPITE CORE GROUP'S BEST EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE IT. CORE GROUP AGREED TOO THAT POSSIBLE WAVERING ON PART OF HOSTILE SIDE (KWON REPORTED BY JAPANESE TO BE DOING ROUNDS OF COMMUNIST MISSIONS) REFLECTED FEAR THAT SUPPORT FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION MIGHT NOT MATCH THAT OF 1975. THEREFORE, CONTINUED CORE GROUP LOBBYING TO ATTRACT SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND TO LIMIT SUPPORT FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION ESSENTIAL.
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